SUBJECT No. 106.

Supari cess.

1. Mr. C. Srinivsa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The *supari* cess may be abolished. The officer conducting these investigations is not deputed entirely for this work. Even if *supari* cess were not levied, it would be his duty to investigate questions connected with *koleroga*. In the maidan he has to study *anaberoga* and thus it is not the malnad owners that benefit by these investigations, though they pay the greatest part of the cess.

2. Mr. H. Gundappa, Kunigal Taluk.

(2) The *supari* cess may be levied only on trees actually in bearing. At present in the case of *supari* gardens associated with other cultivation all trees below 6 feet are counted for calculating the cess. This limit is too low and places persons owning mixed gardens at a great disadvantage. Only trees above 12 feet may be counted.

3. Mr. Ramanujiengar, Kunigal Taluk.

(3) The levy of the *supari* cess in no way gives any benefit to garden owners in the maidan, as the cess is intended to meet the cost of investigation of the diseases affecting the *supari* trees and their cure in the malnad. The realization in the maidan tracts may with advantage be made over to the District Board for demonstrating the advantages of water lifts and other helps to agriculture.

Reply of Government.—The question of raising the height of trees to be counted in determining the extent of gardens having *supari* intermingled with other produce to 12 feet, will be favourably considered. It is too soon to consider the abolition of the cess now.

SUBJECT No. 107.

Reservation of fifty yards on either side of watercourses in coffee land.

Mr. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—As the planted trees serve the purpose for which jungle trees are now required to be left on either side of the streams, the restriction now imposed may be removed. The most fertile lands are to be found in these reserves, and by prohibiting their cultivation entirely both the coffee and cardamom industry are seriously handicapped. As fifty yards are required to be reserved on each side of the stream over its entire length the area so reserved is very considerable in the case of each stream. If it is absolutely necessary to enforce the restriction, it may be enforced near the source of the springs themselves.

Mr. Pilkington.—The restriction is enforced only in the case of coffee and cardamom. It is not enforced in the case of *supari* gardens, the area of which is much greater than that of coffee and cardamom estates. No serious results have ensued by the neglect of the rule and it is quite unnecessary. If necessary, jungles at the top of the hills may be reserved.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya.—If it is necessary to reserve such extensive areas it would be better to

refuse *darkhasts* for lands containing the water-courses altogether. Except perhaps at the head waters, there is no necessity to maintain a margin, and a rule may be issued prohibiting the grant of lands up to a certain distance near the head waters instead of imposing any such restriction throughout the entire length of the stream.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 108.

Grant of waste lands in *bechirak* villages on *shraya* tenure.

Messrs. Lingegowda, Mysore District Board; and H. C. Subba Rao, Hunsur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Government waste dry lands in *bechirak* villages may be given out for purposes of cultivation on *shraya* tenure, the *kandayam* being fixed at two annas per acre for the first fifteen years and raised to the maximum gradually. Such concessions are specially necessary in the Heggaddevankote and the Hunsur Taluks. Applications are not speedily disposed of. There is an application pending for more than two years for lands at Voderhalli of the Hosahalli hobli in the Hunsur Taluk.

Reply of Government.—Early disposal of the applications will be insisted upon. Special concessions will be shown in the case of the Heggaddevankote Taluk and the necessity for similar concessions in the Hunsur Taluk will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 109.

Sandal trees on lands applied for for cultivation.

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The rule that applicants for waste lands should pay the price of sandal trees on the land before obtaining it for cultivation, acts as a great hardship on the ryots applying for such lands. The rule should be repealed. Very few ryots take up lands with the expectation of being able to retain the lands until the sandal trees mature and yield a bonus. In the Kadur District the rule is practically preventing people from getting any lands. Lately at Mattewar in the Chikmagalur Taluk a price of Rs. 115 was required to be paid on account of sandal trees for two acres of land. Government may retain the monopoly altogether in sandal in lands to be newly granted and grant the lands without any claim to the bonus payable on account of the sandal trees growing thereon when they become mature under the rules.

Reply of Government.—Noted for consideration.

SUBJECT No. 110.

Abolition of *Mohatarfa*.

Mr. K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha.

Summary of discussion.—*Mohatarfa* is at present collected from even the poorest of petty traders. In small villages poor widows carry on petty trade and to make them pay Rs. 2 or more out of their very small earnings works harshly on them. This system is opposed to the fundamental principles of taxation. Further it tends to destroy what little business instinct the villagers have